



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 10, 2015

**TO:** Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors

**FROM:** Norma Jean Sass *njs*  
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

**SUBJECT:** Student Learning Objectives

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) recommends using Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) to help measure student academic growth.

SLOs are measurable, long-term, academic goals informed by available data that a teacher or teacher team sets at the beginning of the year for all students. Legislation in Michigan requires that the student growth and assessment component of a teacher's evaluation consist of state student growth and assessment measurement standards and local student growth assessment. SLOs are one way to measure the academic growth of students. The MDE has consulted with other states and districts to gain useful information about SLO implementation. Although SLOs are not a requirement, these SLO documents are suggested recommendations.

The following public acts govern teacher and administrator evaluations:

- Public Act 205 of 2009 (adds Section 1249 to the School Code)
- Public Act 101 of 2011 (expands evaluation requirements)
- Public Act 257 of 2014 (addresses student growth data)

Public Act 257 of 2014, Section 1249(2) (a) (i) states, in part:

"Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, at least 50 percent of the evaluation shall be based on student growth and assessment data."

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More information can be found on the following documents:

- Student Learning Objectives FAQ
- Student Learning Objectives template
- Student Learning Objectives template checklist

These documents are located at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530\\_30334-363616--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_30334-363616--,00.html)

If you have questions regarding SLOs, please contact Sam Sinicropi at 517-241-0439, or at [sinicropis@michigan.gov](mailto:sinicropis@michigan.gov).

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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